Functioning of undertaking under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

1319. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI AAS MOHAMMAD:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of the various undertakings functioning under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof, undertaking-wise; and

(c) the assistance provided to those Undertakings which are not performing well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The performance of the undertakings under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is reviewed on a regular basis. These reviews focus, inter alia, on the overall performance of the undertakings, achievements of production targets, turn-over, profitability, progress of project implementation, energy conservation and pollution control. The problems being faced by the undertakings are also discussed and all possible assistance is provided to overcome them.

Committee to determine liabilities

1320. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 62 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 1994 and state:

(a) what is the progress made by the three member committee to determine the liabilties into the DPEA and whether it has finalised any case so far;

(b) what is the latest progress in each case and by when the recommendations would be finalised; and

(c) what is the status of the committee and whether its findings would be binding on the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) The Drug Prices Liabilities Review Committee (DPLRC) has already commenced functioning All the relevant data concerning tentative liabilities assessed against the drug companies have been made available to the DPLRC which has studied the cases in details. Hearings have commenced. As already answered in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 62 answered on 28th July, 1994, the Three Member Committee is independent in its functioning. The findings of the Committee will be purely of recommendatory nature.

Introducion of brands by multinational Companies

1321. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that multinational companies are introducing their brands at very high prices in the country even before the GATT proposals are introduced;

(b) what are the names of formulations introduced by multinational drug companies during 1994 and what are their prices, composition, strength and pack of each;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of leading Indian companies having similar products are even less than half;

(d) if so, names of such products and their prices;

(e) whether it is also a fact that certain multinational drug companies have withdrawn their products after similar products being introduced by Indian companies whose price are even less than ten times;

(f) if so, the details of such instances; and

(g) what steps are being taken to safeguard the interest of consumer after implementation of GATT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (g) Introduction of a product under brand name by an Indian company or a multinational company is a normal commercial practice and is not linked to GATT. Marketing of formulations by different manufacturers under different brand names is not monitored as such.

Annual review of list of bulk drugs

1322. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1371 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th August, 1994 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government as well as Kelkar Committee had recommended annual review of list of bulk drugs and bring all those drugs under price control which had a turn-over of Rs. 50 lakhs or more:

(b) if so, when were the reviews undertaken and what is the outcome of each review; and

(c) what are the names of drugs included in the year 1993 and 1994 and how many cases are pending for review as on 31st July, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Kelkar Committee, constituted for the purpose of identifying drugs to be kept under Category II of DPCO, 1987 had adopted as one of the criteria "to exclude those drugs from price control the turnover of which has been less than Rs. 50 lakhs in 1986. In view of the large number of representations on pricing aspects, including on the criteria adopted by the Kelkar Committee, the Government has since reviewed the price control system alongwith the other aspects of the Drug policy, 1986 and the decision in regard to the criteria to be adopted is given in the "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. Accordingly, the new DPCO, which will contain the list of drugs that would be under price control on the basis of the said criteria is being formulated.

Selling of Doxycycline formulations without price approval

1323. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leading drug companies like Pfizer, US Vitamins and other are selling their Doxycycline formulations without any price approval and if so, what price is being charged by them together with the price fixed by Government and since when;

(b) in what manner these companies have been defying Government and what steps have been taken to enforce the prices;

(c) whether it is also a fact that M/s. U.S. Vitamins are selling multivitamin and other formulations without any price approval, if so, what are the details and what action has been taken; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that change in management is being enforced in the company by manipulation, if so, what are the facts in this regard?